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Program Delayed After Parents Objec

By Judy Madison
Staff Writer

Concerns over the use of Hemi-Sync in Nelson schools were expressed by two parents at the Nov. 14 meeting of the School Board.

The board moved to delay using the program this year until further information could be obtained by Division Superintendent John Owens.

Hemi-Sync is a program offered by the Monroe Institute that uses a combination of music and "tones" that synchronize the two hemispheres of the brain. Monroe personnel maintain, resulting in increased concentration and a positive atmosphere for learning. The program was used last year in Judy Greenberg's fourth grade class at Lovingston Elementary and was reapproved for use this year by the board in September, with the stipulation that "any indication of negative effects" would prompt the board to withdraw permission. Also required was parental consent for any children that would be involved.

However before the program began several parents expressed concern over any possible negative effects of the program and requested more detailed information.

Janice Snably, a parent of one student in Greenberg's class, told the board "medical and scientific questions" about Hemi-Sync were not answered to her satisfaction by Monroe staff at informational meetings held at Lovingston Elementary School. She said the words "effective control over the mood of the class," which she said appear in a Monroe manual, is the point of concern" with parents. The other parent who expressed concern, Robbie Rutherford, said he currently has no children in Nelson schools. He said his child will enter school next year.

Owens said he was in the process of gathering information on the subject and recommended the board delay allowing the program to begin until his study was concluded.

"This board has acted on a recommendation by their Superintendent and Director of Instruction," Owens said. "We have not done an extensive study. I have made a commitment that I will become aware of what Hemi-Sync can do and cannot do." Owens said the program "is controversial with some parents but it's not overwhelming."

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Board member John Pollock made the motion to delay the program until Owens can report his findings and that "the people who have expressed concern be notifed when we discuss it again." The motion was passed unanimously by board members.